- **About**
  - Vision and Mission
  - Our Governance
  - Our Accountability
  - Why We're Effective
  - Private Lands Conservation
  - Development by Design
  - Our Partners in Conservation
  - Campaign for a Sustainable Planet
  - Careers
  - Diversity
  - Contact Us
- **Our Science**
  - Conservation By Design
  - Our Scientists
  - Science Council
  - Science Features
- **Our Initiatives**
  - Habitats
  - Regions
  - Urgent Issues
- **News & Features**
  - Nature Conservancy Magazine
  - Special Features
  - For Media
- **Donate**
- **Membership**
  - Become a Member
  - Renew Membership
  - Gift Memberships
  - Member Benefits
  - More
- **Photos & Multimedia**
  - Photography
  - Natural Light
  - Mark Godfrey Selects
  - Photo of the Month
  - Featured Image
  - Public Service Advertisements
- **Blog**

The Nature Conservancy

You depend on nature—we're here to save it. We're working with you to make a positive impact around the world in 32 countries, all 50 United States and your backyard. Learn More

Donate Now

View All Ways To Give

- Close
- Become a Member
- Monthly Giving
- Renew Membership
- Gift Memberships
- Tributes and Memorials
- Donate in Your Area
- Workplace / Matching
- Personal Fundraising
- Adopt an Acre / Reef
- Plant Trees
- Offset Carbon
- Gift Planning
- Bequests
- Gift Annuities
- Gifts of Real Estate
- Gifts of Stock
- Retirement

- Log In
- My Nature Page
- Shop

Languages

- Español
- Português
- 中文

SearchSearch
Explore Places We Work

Close
- **Worldwide**

  - ○ Africa
  - ○ Asia and the Pacific
  - ○ Caribbean
  - ○ Central America

- ○ Europe
- ○ North America
- ○ South America

- **Countries**

  - ○ Argentina
  - ○ Australia
  - ○ Bahamas
  - ○ Belize
  - ○ Bolivia
  - ○ Brazil
  - ○ Canada
  - ○ Chile
  - ○ China
  - ○ Colombia
  - ○ Coral Triangle
  - ○ Costa Rica
  - ○ Dominican Republic
  - ○ Eastern Caribbean
  - ○ Ecuador
  - ○ Guatemala
  - ○ Honduras
  - ○ Indonesia
  - ○ Jamaica
  - ○ Mexico
  - ○ Micronesia
  - ○ Mongolia
  - ○ Nicaragua
  - ○ Panama
  - ○ Papua New Guinea
  - ○ Paraguay
  - ○ Peru
  - ○ Solomon Islands
  - ○ United States
  - ○ Venezuela

- **United States**

  - ○ Alabama
  - ○ Alaska
  - ○ Arizona
  - ○ Arkansas
  - ○ California
  - ○ Colorado
  - ○ Connecticut
  - ○ Delaware
  - ○ Florida

- ○ Georgia
- ○ Hawai'i
- ○ Idaho
- ○ Illinois
- ○ Indiana
- ○ Iowa
- ○ Kansas
- ○ Kentucky
- ○ Louisiana
- ○ Maine
- ○ District of Columbia
- ○ Maryland
- ○ Massachusetts
- ○ Michigan
- ○ Minnesota
- ○ Mississippi
- ○ Missouri
- ○ Montana
- ○ Nebraska
- ○ Nevada
- ○ New Hampshire
- ○ New Jersey
- ○ New Mexico
- ○ New York
- ○ North Carolina
- ○ North Dakota
- ○ Ohio
- ○ Oklahoma
- ○ Oregon
- ○ Pennsylvania
- ○ Rhode Island
- ○ South Carolina
- ○ South Dakota
- ○ Tennessee
- ○ Texas
- ○ Utah
- ○ Vermont
- ○ Virginia
- ○ Washington
- ○ West Virginia
- ○ Wisconsin
- ○ Wyoming

- **U. S. Regions**

  - ○ Berkshire Taconic Landscape

- ○ Central Appalachians
- ○ Chesapeake Bay
- ○ Great Lakes
- ○ Greater Yellowstone
- ○ Gulf of Maine
- ○ Gulf of Mexico

Alaska

Bristol Bay Headwaters Field Study

Headwaters streams identified by the Conservancy are now eligible for stringent legal safeguards.

Salmon survey in the Bristol Bay headwaters. © Bridget Besaw

- **Video**

Salmon Science in Bristol Bay headwaters. © Bridget Besaw/The Nature Conservancy

Salmon Science

Explore Bristol Bay headwaters with a Conservancy field crew.

Watch

Watch

Story Highlights

Southwest Alaska field crew searches for research reports, findings and analyses. © Bridget Besaw

In 2008-2010, Conservancy field teams conducted anadromous fish surveys in the lakes and streams of the Nushagak-Mulchatna and Kvichak headwaters.

The field research in the upper reaches of the Nushagak and Kvichak has demonstrated that virtually all water bodies in the area are important for salmon. In fact, salmon were documented in approximately 75 percent of the streams surveyed, many of them small streams less than 10 feet wide. These healthy watersheds are essential for migrating salmon, rearing salmon, and spawning salmon in Bristol Bay.

The lakes and streams identified by the Conservancy are now eligible for the most stringent safeguards currently available under Alaska state law.

The results:

- The nomination of 104 miles of streams to the state's Anadromous Waters Catalog. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game maintains anadromous waters data in the Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes and its associated Atlas. This database currently contains the 16,000 streams, rivers and lakes in Alaska which have been recognized as important spawning, rearing or migration habitat.
- In 2009, the Conservancy field crews substantiated 222 miles of salmon streams that had been included in the Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog but without substantiating data.

Report:

- Fish Surveys in Headwater Streams of the Nushagak and Kvichak River Drainages, Bristol Bay, Alaska, 2008-2010

Maps:

- Bristol Bay Salmon Studies: 2008-2010

Nominated stream reaches in 2010:

- Unnamed tributaries of Kaskanak Creek

Nominated stream reaches in 2009:

- Iliamna tributary
- Kaskanak Creek
- Koktuli River
- Lower Talarik Creek
- Newhalen Creek
- N. Fork Koktuli River
- Pickerel Lakes
- S. Fk. Koktuli River
- Sucker Bay
- Upper Talarik Creek

Nominated stream reaches in 2008:

- South Fork Koktuli River
- Upper Talarik Creek
- North Fork Koktuli River

Scientific Literature

- Salmon Ecosystems and Mining

Field crews used sampling protocols developed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Field volunteers relied on electro-fishing to gather data such as species presence and size.

March 16, 2011

Explore Related Content

Go Deeper

A large-scale gold mine proposed for Bristol Bay warrants a thoughtful risk analysis. Learn more

Nushagak River Watershed

Traditional use areas are the landscapes in which Native people hunt and fish. Learn more

The Nature Conservancy restores salmon passage in the Little Susitna River watershed. © Clark James Mishler

Donate to The Nature Conservancy

When you donate today, you'll help The Nature Conservancy protect the most vital habitats on

Earth.

Top Stories

On NPR: Fighting Back the Sea

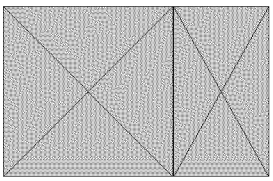
We're building oyster reefs in North Carolina to help slow coastal erosion. Listen to the story

On CNN: Oyster Revitalization

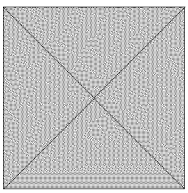
See how our reef restoration work benefits Louisiana culture and cuisine. Watch the video

Our Accountability

The Nature Conservancy makes careful use of your support View our ratings



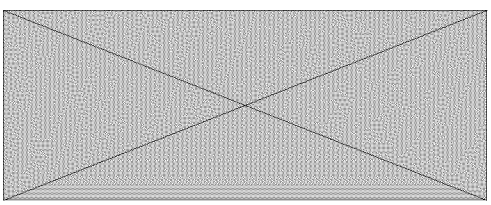
Our Efficiency



76% Program

14% General Administration

10% Membership & Fundraising



- Careers
- Contact Us
- Help/FAQs

- For Media
- Site Map

- Privacy Policy
- Legal Disclosure
- Financials
- For Corporate Partners
- RSS

Join our Community

The Nature Conservancy is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.